

March 5, 1955

Mr. Joseph Bloodgood
2805 E. Washington Ave.
Madison, Wis.

Dear Assemblyman Bloodgood:

Perhaps you may recall my telephone call Wednesday about your safety belt bill.

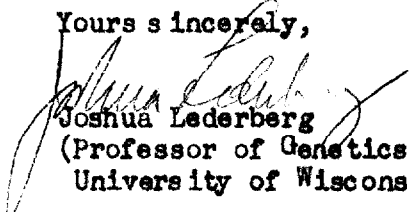
At your suggestion, I have written to Mr. Romell, enclosing an informal petition signed by a number of friends of Mr. Wright, the lad who was injured in the accident that immediately provoked our interest. (I regret to have to mention that he is still unconscious, but very slowly improving, for the sixth day). We did not "insist" that any pending bill be passed, but simply that it be given the fullest, promptest study by the committees.

I have also taken the liberty of writing to Governor Kohler. Again, I did not urge his immediate support, but that the technical information be gathered and studied very carefully. It seemed to me that aside from the Governor's political influence, and (I believe) his sincere concern for highway safety, that there was also room for study, evaluation and recommendation by the executive. Indeed, would it not be practicable to delegate the establishment of detailed standards to the executive, rather than attempt to write them in law?

Can I be of any assistance in any other way? I am looking forward to the hearings and will attend as fully as time permits. Of course, I would not be qualified to offer any kind of testimony.

As I mentioned to you over the phone, however, Peter Day (Ph.D. and Commonwealth Fund research fellow) was one of the unhurt survivors, and would be willing to testify if such a statement of personal experience and human interest could make the issue more concrete. Dr. Day is an extremely affable, articulate person who would be bound to make an excellent impression. You can readily communicate with him via myself (Ext. 4610 at the University) or at his home (5-4229).

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg
(Professor of Genetics
University of Wisconsin)